

1 December 2014

Sid A. Valledor
466 Crescent St., #108
Oakland, CA 94610

Mr. Thomas Adams, Executive Director
Instruction Quality Commissioner
Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division (CFIRD)
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Room 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sir:

Re: AB 199, School Curriculum: social sciences: Filipinos in World War II
as approved by Governor on October 08, 2011

The Philippines had been under the United States jurisdiction since 1898 when at the onset of World War II the United States had the largest concentration of U.S. military force outside the United States, as was the case with the Fort Stotsenburg military installation in the Philippines. Within the War Department's created US Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE), the Army force strength in the Philippines numbered 31,095.

Due to the U.S. military strategy of defeat-Germany first the Philippines was sacrificed to the Japanese invasion. Its defense, however, bought time for the United States war industry until the nation would be able to focus its attention in the Far East.

Outside of Nanking, China, the most devastated city was Manila. During the course of the war over a million people perished in the Philippines. In the infamous "Bataan Death March" some 600 Americans died along with up to 10,000 Filipinos among the 15,000 American soldiers and some 60,000 Filipino soldiers, all under the command of the United States Army.

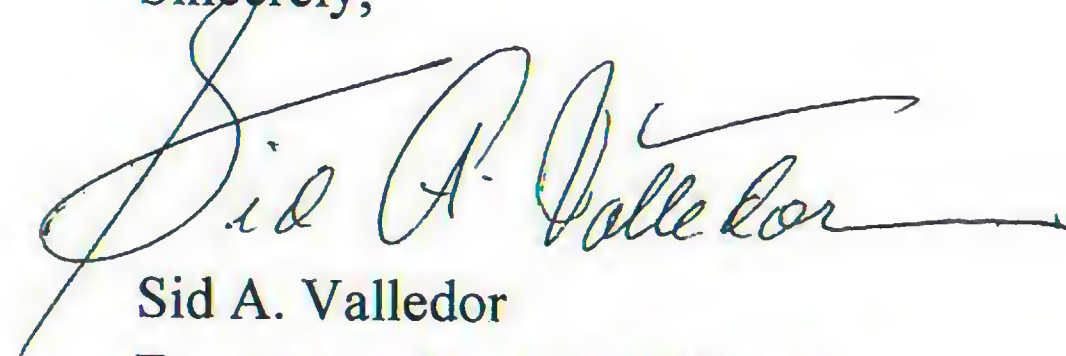
From a micro perspective, amidst the tragedy of war the Philippine Islands Campaign provided the U.S. Army with extended combat experience, reports of new enemy tactics and weaponry, and important battlefield effectiveness of the newer weapons.

Symbolic of the war in the Philippines against the Imperial Japanese military, prior to its liberation, the Battle of Bataan against overwhelming odds became a symbol of hope for the United States. The Death March inspired the U.S. troops to honor such sacrifice by vowing to retake the Islands.

In part, for the above reasons and for the children of the State of California, respectfully request the implementation of AB 199, School curriculum: social sciences: Filipinos in World War II as approved by Governor on October 08, 2011.

In the Voce of Freedom broadcast on 9 April 1942, "The world will long remember the epic struggle that Filipino and American soldiers put up" Implementation will invaluablely aid in that respect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sid A. Valledor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sid A. Valledor

Former teacher in California

Son and grandson of U.S. Army Regular soldiers

Grandfathers died while in active duty

Father, Bataan Death March survivor and POW

Gravesite at the Presidio of San Francisco designated

as an historical landmark by the Arlington National Cemetery